

learners. She believes that the best way for our children to have empathy and to be people of good character is by walking in other people's shoes and by exploring the world beyond their backyards.

Harini also was instrumental in organizing the now annual trips for Crocker's 8th graders to Washington, D.C. It's a great opportunity for the students to learn about congressional history and to see democracy in action.

Additionally, Harini applies her love for the arts to her work as vice chair of the San Mateo County Arts Commission and on the 2020 California Arts Council State Local Partners Grant Panel. She is a champion for social justice and gender equality and serves on the boards of Equal Access International and FUND HER. In her never-ending pursuit of growing and learning, she is currently enrolled in a program in public leadership at Harvard Kennedy School. As you can surmise from this long list of public service and engagement, Harini is an exemplary community leader.

She is also a devoted wife and mother. She and her husband, Vika Jha, a startup entrepreneur, have raised two remarkable children, Janani and Abhaya, who are college students pursuing their own dreams. They are talented and extraordinarily gifted. I have been in awe of their accomplishments.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Harini Krishnan for her countless contributions to our community and for her determination to recruit more global citizens to make the world a better place.

#### HONORING 150 YEARS OF THE VALLEY VIEW, TEXAS POST OFFICE

### HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize the City of Valley View, Texas, as residents come together to celebrate the Valley View Post Office's 150th birthday on Saturday, March 26, 2022.

Located in Cooke County, the town was first settled by the Lee family in 1870. By 1872, L.W. Lee had plotted a beautiful new town on his land and named it Valley View, presumably for the view offered at the site of Spring Valley. With the grand opening of the Valley View Post Office that same year, the community would start with 18 families and prosper tremendously over the next 150 years.

The community's first school, hotel, steam gristmills, cotton gins, churches, and general stores tell an important part of Valley View's history, but I believe it is the fine people of Valley View who represent the best aspects of the town. This community has reached its 150th birthday through the generations of hard work and love for their community. Today, the United States Congress honors them.

I am honored to represent the residents of Valley View here in Congress. This community is rich in history and its people are rooted in our shared Texas values. I wish them a joyous celebration of the past 150 years. Here's to 150 more.

#### IN HONOR OF JACOB (JACK) BLANTON

### HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a patriotic American, Jacob (Jack) Blanton, on the occasion of his 102nd birthday. His life story exemplifies true American spirit, determination, and love for our country.

Mr. Blanton was born on March 25, 1920, in Brooklyn, New York. His father, Silas Blanton, a native Kentuckian, had been serving in the US coastal defense in New York before WWI where he met a young German immigrant working as a nanny. They married and eventually moved their family to Kentucky when the burgeoning coal mines in Eastern Kentucky began aggressively recruiting miners. Jack grew up during the depression and the tumultuous years of union conflict in Harlan County.

Mr. Blanton was in high school when WWII broke out. He volunteered for the Army Air Corp to become an airplane mechanic. He went to school at Long Beach, CA, for Douglas Aircraft A-20 planes. After his training he was sent to Asia, where he served in the 348th Night Fighters and also worked on Cargo Transport planes C54 and C47 that flew personnel and supplies over the Hump, the Himalayan Mountains. He was promoted to Tech Sergeant and became Crew Chief for the Douglas A-20.

Following the war, Mr. Blanton married his high school sweetheart, who had gone to Washington, D.C., after high school where she worked for the FBI. They went on to raise four children in Lynch, KY where Jack was a Boy Scout master, Sunday School teacher at the Lynch Methodist Church, little league baseball coach, and a member of the Masonic Lodge. He retired from United States Steel as a mine foreman in 1980. He and his wife then moved to London, KY, to be with his elderly mother. He lost the love of his life to a heart attack three days before 9/11.

Mr. Blanton continues to live independently in London where he still raises a garden and takes care of his home and property, even at 102 years old. He takes tremendous pride in having all four of his children pursue college, with two earning advanced degrees. He is a Christian and attended Liberty Baptist Church in London. He is also an unabashed patriot with an undeterred determination to vote in the next Presidential election.

It is my honor to recognize Mr. Blanton, celebrate his 102nd birthday and thank him for his service and sacrifice to our nation during World War II. As a part of The Greatest Generation, Mr. Blanton and his fellow soldiers fought to preserve the freedoms that we enjoy today, and we can never thank them enough. I am forever grateful for Americans like Jack Blanton.

#### TRIBUTE TO ELIAS PARONG SABLAN (1899-1968)

### HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 24, 2022

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, Elias Jacobo Parong Sablan was a visionary, linguist, and pioneering leader of the people of Saipan, guiding them out from under the 400-year rule of foreign powers to the beginnings of our self-government under the trusteeship of the United States after World War II.

Born on November 8, 1899, to Felix Delos Reyes Sablan and Luisa Malug Parong, Elias was the fourth child in a family of six. He learned our native languages at home: Chamorro from his father Felix and Carolinian from his mother Luisa.

Felix also taught his son to speak, read, and write the English language. In his own youth, Felix served as a cabin boy aboard the *Charles W. Morgan*, an American whaling ship out of New Bedford, Massachusetts. From his crewmates he learned English and about life in the United States of America. He also collected English textbooks on navigation, United States history, and other subjects, books he shared with his son Elias as the boy grew.

The year before Elias' birth, Germany purchased the Northern Mariana Islands from Spain, which had ruled the islands for some 377 years. Elias attended the German school on Saipan, and then was sent to the island of Yap, also under German control, to be educated in communications. By the time he was 15, Elias had learned the international Morse code and added Yapese and German to his linguistic skills.

Japan seized control of the Northern Mariana Islands from Germany at the outset of World War I and after the war was granted a mandate to govern by the League of Nations. This occupation provided Elias the opportunity to learn one more language, Japanese, while working at the Japanese sugar mill. He also married during this Japanese period, wedding Carmen Romolor Mangarero on January 23, 1921. Together they would have 13 children.

Elias' heritage, his upbringing, his education, and experience all prepared him well for the life-threatening events of World War II and what came after. In fact, Elias' knowledge of English would save his life and the lives of his family.

World War II came to the Mariana Islands on June 10, 1944, when the United States attacked the Japanese military forces on Saipan. After a brutal and destructive battle, killing tens of thousands of Japanese and American soldiers, as well as non-combatant civilians, the United States took control of the island on July 9, 1944.

Throughout the battle, Elias and his family hid in a cave in the hills, listening as bombs dropped on the island and watching as Japanese and American airplanes fought in the skies overhead. One day, spotting movement near the cave's entrance, U.S. battleships just outside the island's reef aimed their fire at the family's hiding place.

When the shelling subsided, those sheltered in the cave could hear voices outside speaking a foreign language. It was U.S. Marines talking in English and combing the area for